THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of monitoring components of a system, comprising:

associating status of at least one component of the system with one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories so as to provide the

5   status of the at least one component in a common situation format that includes the associated one of the component independent predefined situation categories; and

analyzing status of the system based on the common situation format representation of the component status.

10   2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein associating status of at least one component is carried out by the at least one component.

3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein associating status of at least one component comprises:

15   obtaining a status message from a component;

classifying the status message based on the contents of the status message so as to identify the one of the set of component independent predefined situation categories; and

generating a common situation format representation of the status message

20   based on the identified category.

4.   The method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

determining a source of the status message;

determining a component associated with the status message; and

25   wherein generating a common situation format representation of the status message based on the identified category comprises generating a common situation format representation of the status message that includes an identification of the source of the status message, an identification of the component associated with the status message and the identified category.

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5.   The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing status of the system further comprises generating a common situation format representation of the

status of the system based on the common situation format representation of the component status.

6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing status of the system
5   further comprises:

obtaining common situation format representations of status of other components of the system;

determining correlations between the obtained common situation format representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the
10   at least one component; and

determining a status of the system based on sufficiently correlated ones of the obtained common situation format representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the at least one component.

15   7.   The method of Claim 6, wherein determining correlations comprises time correlating and/or transaction correlating ones of the obtained common situation format representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the at least one component.

20   8.   The method of Claim 6, wherein determining a status of the system further comprises:

evaluating the sufficiently correlated ones of the obtained common situation format representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the at least one component so as to select one of the set of predefined
25   situation categories based on the sufficiently correlated ones of the obtained common situation format representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the at least one component; and

generating a common situation format representation that includes the selected one of the component independent predefined situation categories.
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9.   The method of Claim 8, wherein generating a common situation format representation that includes the selected one of the component independent

predefined situation categories further comprises determining a component identifier for the common situation format representation that includes the selected one of the predefined situation categories based on component identifiers associated with the correlated ones of the obtained common situation format

5   representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the at least one component.

10.   The method of Claim 9, wherein determining a component identifier comprises aggregating the component identifiers to identify a higher

10   level abstraction component identifier corresponding to the component identifiers and/or isolating one of the component identifiers so as to provide the component identifier for the generated common situation format representation.

11.   The method of Claim 6, wherein analyzing the status of the system

15   further comprises automatically identifying corrective action based on the sufficiently correlated ones of the obtained common situation format representations and the common situation format representation of the status of the at least one component.

20   12.   The method of Claim 11, wherein automatically identifying corrective action further comprises generating a common action format representation of the identified corrective action.

13.   The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing the status of the system

25   further comprises automatically identifying corrective action based on the analysis of the status of the system.

14.   The method of Claim 13, wherein automatically identifying corrective action further comprises generating a common action format

30   representation of the identified corrective action.

15.   The method of Claim 14, wherein the common action format representation of the identified corrective action includes a canonical representation of the corrective action.

5   16.   A method of generating status information for a component, comprising:

        obtaining component specific status information for the component;

        classifying the status information so as to identify one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories based on the status

10   information; and

        generating a common situation format representation of the status information based on the identified category.

        17.   The method according to Claim 16, further comprising:

15   determining a source of the status information;

        determining a component associated with the status information; and

        wherein generating a common situation format representation of the status information based on the identified category comprises generating a common situation format representation of the status information that includes an

20   identification of the source of the status message, an identification of the component associated with the status message and the identified category.

        18.   The method of Claim 17, wherein determining a source of the status information comprises determining a source of the status information based on an

25   explicit identification of the source of the status information.

        19.   The method of Claim 17, wherein determining a source of the status information comprises determining a source of the status information based on an implicit identification of the source of the status information.

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20. The method of Claim 19, wherein generating a common situation format representation further comprises appending source component identification information to the common situation format representation.

21. The method of Claim 17, wherein determining a component associated with the status information comprises determining a component associated with the status information based on an implicit identification of the component associated with the status information.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein generating a common situation format representation further comprises appending associated component identification information to the common situation format representation.

23. The method of Claim 17, wherein determining a component associated with the status information comprises determining a component associated with the status information based on an explicit identification of the component associated with the status information.

24. The method of Claim 16, wherein obtaining component specific status information for the component, classifying the status information so as to identify the one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories based on the status information and generating a common situation format representation of the status information based on the identified category are carried out by the component.

25. The method of Claim 16, wherein obtaining component specific status information for the component, classifying the status information so as to identify the one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories based on the status information and generating a common situation format representation of the status information based on the identified category are carried out by an adapter that obtains information about the component.

26. A system for monitoring components of a system, comprising:

means for associating status of at least one component of the system with one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories so as to provide the status of the at least one component in a common situation format that includes the associated one of the component independent predefined situation categories; and

means for analyzing status of the system based on the common situation format representation of the component status.

27. A system for generating status information for a component, comprising:

means for obtaining component specific status information for the component;

means for classifying the status information so as to identify the one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories based on the status information; and

means for generating a common situation format representation of the status information based on the identified category.

28. A computer program product for monitoring components of a system, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to associate status of at least one component of the system with one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories so as to provide the status of the at least one component in a common situation format that includes the associated one of the component independent predefined situation categories; and

computer readable program code configure to analyze status of the system based on the common situation format representation of the component status.

29.   A computer program product for generating status information for a component, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

5   computer readable program code configured to obtain component specific status information for the component;

computer readable program code configured to classify the status information so as to identify the one of a set of component independent predefined situation categories based on the status information; and

10   computer readable program code configured to generate a common situation format representation of the status information based on the identified category.